

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**We Claim:**

- 1) (original) A composition of matter comprising an aerogel having a monolayer coating.
- 2) (original) The composition of matter of claim 1, wherein said aerogel is a ceramic oxide.
- 3) (original) The composition of matter of claim 2, wherein said ceramic oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, aluminosilicate, and combinations thereof.
- 4) (original) The composition of matter of claim 1, wherein said monolayer coating is formed of self-limiting monomers.
- 5) (original) The composition of matter of claim 4, wherein said self-limiting monomers are selected from the group consisting of alkyl silanes, chlorosilanes, boranes, chloroboranes, germanes, and combinations thereof.
- 6) (original) The composition of matter of claim 1 wherein said aerogel having said monolayer coating has pore sizes of between 150 Å and 250 Å and bottlenecks of between 110 Å and 150 Å.
- 7) (original) A composition of matter comprising a ceramic oxide aerogel having a monolayer coating consisting essentially of a self-limiting monomer.
- 8) (original) The composition of matter of claim 7, wherein said ceramic oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, aluminosilicate, and combinations thereof.

- 9) (original) The composition of matter of claim 7, wherein said self-limiting monomer is selected from the group consisting of alkyl silanes, chlorosilanes, boranes, chloroboranes, germanes, and combinations thereof.
- 10) (original) The composition of matter of claim 7, wherein said wherein said ceramic oxide aerogel having said monolayer coating has pore sizes of between 150 Å and 250 Å and bottlenecks of between 110 Å and 150 Å.
- 11) (original) A method for forming an aerogel having a monolayer coating comprising the steps of:
  - a. providing an aerogel and a monolayer forming precursor in a supercritical fluid,
  - b. reacting said aerogel and said monolayer forming precursor in said supercritical fluid to form a covalent bond between said aerogel and said monolayer forming precursor.
- 12) (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said aerogel is provided as a ceramic oxide.
- 13) (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein said ceramic oxide is provided as selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, aluminosilicate, and combinations thereof.
- 14) (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said monolayer forming precursors are provided as self-limiting monomers.
- 15) (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said self-limiting monomers are provided as selected from the group consisting of alkyl silanes, chlorosilanes, boranes, chloroboranes, germanes, and combinations thereof.
- 16) (original) A method for forming an aerogel having a monolayer coating comprising the steps of:
  - a. providing an aerogel, a surface preparation agent, and a monolayer forming precursor in a supercritical fluid,
  - b. reacting said aerogel, said surface preparation agent and said monolayer forming precursor in said supercritical fluid to form a covalent bond between said aerogel and said monolayer forming precursor.

Mailed July 17, 2004

- 17) (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said aerogel is provided as a ceramic oxide.
- 18) (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein said ceramic oxide is provided as selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, aluminosilicate, and combinations thereof.
- 19) (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said monolayer forming precursor is provided as self-limiting monomers.
- 20) (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said self-limiting monomers are provided as selected from the group consisting of alkyl silanes, chlorosilanes, boranes, chloroboranes, germanes, and combinations thereof.
- 21) (original) A method for forming an aerogel having a monolayer coating comprising the steps of:
  - a. hydroetching an aerogel to provide a hydroetched aerogel,
  - b. providing said hydroetched aerogel with a monolayer forming precursor in a supercritical fluid,
  - c. reacting said hydroetched aerogel and said monolayer forming precursor in said supercritical fluid to form a covalent bond between said hydroetched aerogel and said monolayer forming precursor.
- 22) (original) The method of claim 21, wherein said aerogel is provided as a ceramic oxide.
- 23) (currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~ 22, wherein said ceramic oxide is provided as selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, aluminosilicate, and combinations thereof.
- 24) (original) The method of claim 21, wherein said monolayer forming precursor is provided as self-limiting monomers.
- 25) (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said self-limiting monomers are provided as selected from the group consisting of alkyl silanes, chlorosilanes, boranes, chloroboranes, germanes, and combinations thereof.